

Miscellany

French Science Ministry

A broad plan for consolidating programs of the various French research establishments has been announced by M. Henri Longchambon, who was appointed to the newly created post of Secretary of State for Scientific Research and Technical Progress following the election of M. Mendes-France as Prime Minister of France. Among other contemplated changes in the organization of government research, the following projects are already included in the 1955 budget: establishment of an institute at the Sorbonne equipped with a 100 Mev synchrocyclotron, 2 Mev accelerator, and isotope separator; expansion of the center for nuclear physics at Strasbourg, which will have a 6 Mev accelerator; extension of the Lyons atomic physics institute, which will also have a new accelerator; a nuclear physics center at Grenoble equipped with "an accelerator of a wholly French design"; a 2 billion volt accelerator to be constructed at Saclay by the French Atomic Energy Commission; and a new betatron at the laboratory of atomic synthesis at Ivry, a 2 Mev accelerator at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, and a new laboratory and 500 Mev synchrocyclotron at Orsay. The new ministry under M. Longchambon, it is announced, includes a planning and policy council which will aid in coordinating the scientific efforts of the French government.

Industrial Research

The Department of Labor has announced the launching of a nation-wide survey of industrial research and development in the United States. The study, which is being carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the National Science Foundation, will provide data on research spending and manpower in every major industry. Coordinated surveys of research activities in government agencies, colleges and universities, trade associations, commercial laboratories, and nonprofit institutions will be carried out by the National Science Foundation. The entire survey program is in conformance with the President's Executive Order 10521, which directed the Foundation to make comprehensive studies of research resources and to develop and recommend to him policies to strengthen the nation's scientific research effort.

Industry is in no danger of over-expanding its research, according to E. R. Weidlein, president of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, who spoke at

a December conference of the American Institute of Management held in New York City. Well-organized industrial research, being "the most effective mechanism ever devised by man to improve his standard of living", is a fruitful source of industrial progress and should be intensified, he indicated. Management officials were warned, however, against destroying the scientific creativity of researchers by attempting to turn scientists into administrators. A more satisfactory approach, he suggested, would be an organizational structure providing for scientific positions equivalent in stature and salary to business administration positions in order to permit scientists to continue working as scientists.

Established

The American Nuclear Society, which was originally called the "Society of Nuclear Scientists and Engineers", came into formal existence last October at a meeting held at the National Academy of Sciences. While primarily interested in nuclear power technology, the Society also includes in its sphere of activity radiation effects, the use of radioisotopes, and similar topics. Membership is open to persons professionally involved in nuclear science and engineering. In one of its first moves the group offered to assist the AEC in implementing the proposed international nuclear energy conference, a subject now under United Nations consideration. ANS will hold its first technical meeting June 27-29 at Pennsylvania State University. Headquarters of the Society are at 329 West 41st Street, New York 36, N. Y.

The Combustion Institute, an incorporated non-profit, professional society, has been established with executive offices at 200 Alcoa Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania. An outgrowth of the Standing Committee on Combustion Symposia, which has sponsored meetings in 1948, 1952, and 1954, the Institute's purpose is to "promote the science and application of combustion and to disseminate knowledge in this field". The Institute has elected a board of directors of fifteen members and the following officers: Bernard Lewis (president), H. C. Hottel (vice president), Stewart Way (treasurer), Bernard M. Sturgis (assistant treasurer), and Glenn C. Williams (secretary). The Institute has also formed a committee with membership drawn from the United States and thirteen other countries which will be responsible for organizing and conducting future combustion symposia.

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University, representing "an expansion and integration of advanced research and instruction in the mathematical sciences", was formally dedicated on November 29th in ceremonies that included an address on mathematics and natural philosophy by Danish physicist Niels Bohr. Other speakers were Henry T. Heald, chancellor of NYU; George E. Roosevelt, president of the University Council; A. B. Kinzel, director of research for Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation and chairman of the Institute's advisory board; and Rich-